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10/033,591	12/27/2001	William Yau	723P010046-US (PAR)	8738
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PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			MILORD, MARCEAU	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 11/10/05.

Accordingly, claims 1-45 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 12-21, 30-33 and 37-45 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirai et al (6,339,699), previously cited.

-Regarding to claim 1, see figures 1, 2, 6, and col. 4, line 53 to col. 6, line

30, Hirai et al disclose an electronic device holder (see figure 1), comprising:

a base (10) having an insert aperture therein;

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a removable insert (20) positioned in the insert aperture; and

a one-piece flexible or deformable member (30) joined to the base for supporting an electronic device disposed in the insert, the one-piece flexible member being independent from the insert, wherein the one-piece flexible member engages the electronic device and supports the electronic device separate from the insert, and wherein the one-piece flexible or deformable member (30) comprises a flexible or deformable portion (32) (see also figures 3 and 6, and col. 5, line 59 to col. 6, line 5).

-Regarding to claim 3, Hirai et al discloses that the base has at least one opening for insertion of the one-piece flexible member (see figures 1 and 2) and the base having external shoulders having holes (12) that support the one-piece flexible member in a raised position via means (22, 40) (see figures 1 and 2).

-Regarding to claim 5, Hirai et al discloses that the base has a lower base portion and an upper base portion (see figure 1).

-Regarding to claim 6, Hirai et al discloses that the lower base portion has a seating surface, a base lower portion opening, and a lower base portion receptacle

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for mating connector elements to a power source via means (30) (see figures 1 and 6).

–Regarding to claim 7, Hirai et al discloses that the insert aperture is disposed in the upper base portion and has an insert aperture inner portion, an outer portion, a lip, and a bottom portion (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 8, Hirai et al discloses that the insert aperture inner portion has sloped inner walls (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 12, Hirai et al discloses that the insert is removably positioned in the insert aperture (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 13, Hirai et al discloses that the one-piece flexible member is pivotably mounted in the base to pivot relative to the base between a lower position and a raised position (see figure 2).

–Regarding to claim 14, in Hirai et al , the holder is inherently portable due to its small, compact size (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 15, see figures 1, 2, 6, and col. 4, line 53 to col. 6, line 30, Hirai et al discloses a system comprising:

a base (10);

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a flexible arm (22, 40) having spindles (22) attached to the base, the base containing at least one corresponding opening (12) for the spindles, the base also having an insert aperture therein; and

an interchangeable insert (20) removably disposed in the insert aperture for holding an electronic device (90)(see figures 1 and 3), wherein the flexible arm cushions the electronic device (see figure 2), wherein the interchangeable insert is selected from a number of different interchangeable inserts which can be interchanged in the insert aperture to accommodate different electronic devices (90)(see figures 3, 23).

–Regarding to claim 16, Hirai et al discloses that the flexible arm is a one-piece member, shaped in a form of an outer perimeter of the base (see figure 15).

–Regarding to claim 17, Hirai et al discloses that the flexible arm flexes in a down position (see figure 15).

–Regarding to claim 18, Hirai et al discloses that the flexible arm is biased in a down position against a rear edge of the base (see figure 15).

–Regarding to claim 19, Hirai et al disclose that the flexible arm has a padded section (40) of elastomeric material (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 20, Hirai et al discloses that the padded section of the flexible arm has a seam via means (22') (see figure 15).

–Regarding to claim 21, Hirai et al discloses that the padded section of the flexible arm is seamless between means (40) (see figure 15).

–Regarding to claim 30, Hirai et al discloses that the interchangeable insert has an insert multi-contact male pin connector (30) (see figure 6) that forms an electrical connection with a base electrical receptacle upon insertion of the interchangeable insert into the insert aperture, wherein the base electrical receptacle (inherently included) attaches to an electrically conductive wire connected to the base electrical receptacle for connection to a power source to form a complete circuit (see figures 3 and 6).

–Regarding to claim 31, in Hirai et al, it is inherent that the power source energizes the base electrical receptacle, the base electrical receptacle energizes the electrically conductive wire, the electrically conductive wire energizes the base electrical receptacle, the base electrical receptacle energizes the insert

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multi-contact male pin connector, the insert multi-contact male pin connector energizes a mobile electronic device placed in the interchangeable insert so that the mobile electronic device can be energized (see figure 6).

-Regarding to claim 32, Hirai et al discloses that the insert multi-contact male pin connector comprises a uniform serial bus connector (see figure 6).

-Regarding to claim 33, Hirai et al discloses that the insert multi-contact male pin connector has a housing (see figure 6).

-Regarding to claim 37, see figures 1, 2, 6, and col. 4, line 53 to col. 6, line 30, Hirai et al discloses a handset holder (see figure 1) comprising:

an electrically conductive removable insert (20) contained in an electrically wired casing (10) for holding a handset; and

a generally U-shaped flexible frame (22, 22, 40, 40) attached to the electrically wired casing in a raised position, wherein the U-shaped flexible frame cushions the handset held in the insert (see figures 1, 2, 15).

-Regarding to claim 38, Hirai et al discloses that the casing has a casing upper section and a casing lower section (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 39, Hirai et al discloses that the casing lower section has mated cutouts (12) for attachment of the U-shaped frame (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 40, Hirai et al discloses that the casing lower section defines shoulders formed on at least one side of the casing from a wider midsection to a narrower front (14a) (see figure 1).

–Regarding to claim 41, Hirai et al discloses that the electrically wired casing is energized by a power source; the power source energizes the electrically conductive insert via means (30) that energizes the handset (see figures 1 and 6).

–Regarding to claim 42, see figures 1–6, and col. 4, line 53 to col. 6, line 30, Hirai et al discloses a method comprising:

step of providing an electrically connectable base (10) (see figure 1) with an insert aperture and the electrically connectable base having at least one base opening for at least one pivotable flexible arm (22, 40) with at least one spindle (22);

step of placing an electrically connectable removable insert (20) into the insert aperture (see figures 3);

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step of placing the at least one pivotable flexible arm spindle (22) into the at least one base opening (12) (see figures 1 and 3);

step of placing an electronic device (90) in the electrically conductable insert to complete a circuit through the electrically connectable removable insert and the electrically connectable base (see figure 3); and

step of positioning the at least one pivotable flexible arm to brace the electronic device (see figures 2 and 3), wherein the electronic device can be removed and the pivotable flexible arm placed in a down I position by including the steps of:

pushing the at least one pivotable flexible arm in a downward direction; and

snapping the at least one pivotable flexible arm into a down position (see figures 2 and 3).

—Regarding to claim 43, Hirai et al disclose that the pushing of the at least one pivotable arm causes the flexing of at least one spindle attached to the at least one pivotable arm (see figures 1 and 2).

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-Regarding to claim 44, Hirai et al discloses that the snapping of the at least one pivotable arm attached to the at least one spindle causes a biasing of a top of the at least one pivotable arm against a rear edge of the electrically connectable base (see figure 2).

-Regarding to claim 45, see figures 1-6, and col. 4, line 53 to col. 6, line 30, Hirai et al discloses electronic device holder, comprising:

a base (10) (see figure 1) having an insert aperture, and an electrical receptacle connected to electrical wiring in a lower base portion attached to a first electrical connector (30) extending into the insert aperture the base having at least one spindle aperture (12);

a number of different interchangeable inserts (20) (see figures 3 and 23) sized and shaped to be received in the insert aperture and adapted for receiving an electronic device (90), each of the different interchangeable inserts having a different predetermined characteristic and having a second electrical connector in an electronic device receiving receptacle; and

at least one pivotable flexible arm (22, 40) (see figure 1) having at least one spindle (22) adapted to be received into the at least one spindle aperture.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 4, 22, 23, 27-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai et al.

–Regarding to claim 2, Hirai et al does not disclose that the base is made of at least one of a metal or a plastic. However, it would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to select the base being made of either one of a metal or a plastic on the basis of the suitability for the intended use.

–Regarding to claim 4, Hirai et al does not disclose that the one-piece flexible member is made of at least one of a plastic material or a tubing.

However, it would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to select the one-piece flexible member being made of either one of plastic material or a tubing on the basis of the suitability for the intended use.

–Regarding to claim 22, Hirai et al discloses that the interchangeable insert comprises an insert central portion, an insert bottom portion, and at least one sloped wall, all within a frame that defines the insert aperture (see figure 1).

Hirai et al does not disclose that the frame is plastic. However, it would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to select the frame being made of a plastic on the basis of the suitability for the intended use.

–Regarding to claim 23, Hirai et al discloses that the insert bottom portion is press fitted with at least one metal contact (30) for connection to a female connector in the insert aperture connected to an electrically conductive wire in the base in turn connected to a base electrical receptacle for connection to a power source (see figure 6).

–Regarding to claim 27, Hirai et al discloses that the at least one sloped wall of the insert is comprised of a plurality outer walls sloped to conform to a slope of a plurality of inner walls of the insert aperture (see figure 1).

-Regarding to claim 28, Hirai et al discloses that the insert central portion includes an insert lip surrounding the insert central portion having a conformed fit to a rim of the insert aperture (see figures 1 and 2).

-Regarding to claim 29, Hirai et al discloses that the insert central portion has a lower surface seatable against a bottom of the insert aperture (see figure 2).

-Regarding to claim 34, Hirai et al does not disclose that the housing is made of at least one of an insulating plastic or a metal. However, it would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to select the housing being made of a plastic or a metal on the basis of the suitability for the intended use.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 9-11, 24-26, 35 and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

-Regarding to claim 9, the applied references fails to teach the holder wherein the insert has a male electrical connector extending through the insert

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aperture inner portion into a female electrical connector in the lower base portion which is connected to an electrically conductive wire disposed through the base lower portion opening, with the electrically conductive wire in turn connected to the lower base portion receptacle.

-Regarding to claim 24, the applied references fails to teach the station wherein the at least one metal contact of the insert bottom portion comprises a flexible spring having a tab portion.

-Regarding to claim 26, the applied references fails to teach the station wherein the insert bottom portion further comprises a terminal portion, the terminal portion projects from a lower side of the insert bottom portion, the insert bottom portion contains an electrical receptacle that connects to the at least one metal contact, wherein the at least one metal contact is at least one spring contact.

-Regarding to claim 35, the applied references fails to teach the station wherein the interchangeable insert comprises a generally rectangularly shaped handset receiving receptacle containing at least one spring contact extending through the terminal portion for connection to the base electrical receptacle,

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upon handset insertion into insert aperture, wherein insertion of a handset completes a circuit to a power source connected to the base.

–Regarding to claim 36, the applied references fails to teach the station wherein the insert has a generally elliptically shaped handset-receiving receptacle.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/10/05 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanh D. Phu whose telephone number is (571)272-7857. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 7:00-17:00.

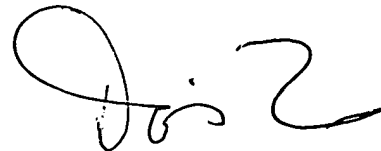
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on (571) 272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sanh D. Phu
Examiner
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SP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doris H. To', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**DORIS H. TO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**